

1/4/2005 Response and Election
USSN 10/753,138

Page 5 of 5

REMARKS

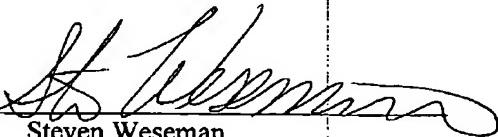
The Examiner has determined that the present application, as filed, contains claims directed to at least five patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. In particular, the species, as determined by the Examiner, are:

- I. Species 1, which comprises a free abrasive;
- II. Species 2, which comprises a fixed abrasive;
- III. Species 3, which includes a reducing agent consisting of ascorbic acid;
- IV. Species 4, which includes an agent consisting of a metal or metal ions in an oxidation state having a standard redox potential that is less than the standard redox potential of the metal in an oxidized form;
- V. Species 5, which contains a polishing component that does not comprise a mixture of alpha-alumina and fumed alumina.

Applicants hereby elect to pursue claims that read on Species 1 (claims 1-21) in the present application. Accordingly, non-elected claims 22-30 are canceled above without prejudice, and may be pursued in a divisional application. This election is made without traverse. An early action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Steven Weseman

Reg. No. 41,372

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Legal Department
Cabot Microelectronics Corporation
870 North Commons Drive
Aurora, IL 60504
(630) 375-5465